

C. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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1 and 2 (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) A method of placing a component having leads and an alignment-indicating physically asymmetric fiducial marker, wherein the physically asymmetric fiducial marker includes a physically asymmetric portion of a bottom surface of the component, the method comprising:

placing the component into a nest having an asymmetrically shaped recess corresponding to the physically asymmetric marker on the component;

detecting whether the physically asymmetric marker on the component mates with the asymmetrically shaped recess; and

placing the component on the substrate when mating of the physically asymmetric marker with the asymmetrically shaped recess is detected.

4. (cancelled)

5. (previously presented): The method of claim 3, wherein said detecting further comprises distinguishing when the component is in a predetermined alignment.

6. (withdrawn) The method of claim 5, wherein said detecting further comprises: creating a low pressure region in the recess; and sensing a pressure in the low pressure region.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein said detecting further comprises sensing when a component contacts a surface of said recess.

8. (cancelled)

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein detecting further comprises:  
directing a pattern of radiation above and parallel to the recess in the nest;  
receiving the radiation pattern that passes the recess;  
comparing the received radiation pattern to a predetermined radiation pattern; and  
determining whether the fiducial marker is mated with the asymmetrically shaped recess.

10-53 (cancelled)

54. (currently amended) A method of placing a component having leads an alignment-indicating physically asymmetric fiducial marker comprising a physically asymmetric portion of a bottom surface of the component, the method comprising:

placing the component in a nest having a surface and an asymmetric recess defined therein;

detecting the alignment of the component in the recess;

comparing the a detected alignment with a predetermined alignment; and

placing the component to a substrate when the detected alignment corresponds to the predetermined alignment.

55. (withdrawn) The method of claim 54, wherein said detecting further comprises focusing an alignment detector on the surface of the nest.

56. (withdrawn) The method of claim 54, wherein said detecting further comprises focusing an alignment detector above the nest.

57. (withdrawn) The method of claim 54, wherein said detecting further comprises focusing an alignment detector parallel to and adjacent the surface of the nest.

58. (withdrawn) The method of claim 54, further comprising picking the component from the nest.

59. (withdrawn) The method of claim 58, further comprising aligning the component.

60. (withdrawn) The method of claim 59, further comprising replacing the component in the recess of the nest.

61. (canceled)

62. (currently amended) A method of placing a component having leads and a fiducial marker having on a bottom surface thereof, the fiducial marker comprising an alignment-indicating physical shape, the method comprising:

forming a recess in a nest corresponding to the alignment-indicating physical shape of the fiducial marker;

placing the component in the recess;

detecting whether the alignment-indicating physical shape of the fiducial marker mates with the recess; and

placing the component on the substrate when mating of the alignment-indicating physical shape of the fiducial marker with the recess is detected.

63. (previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein said detecting further comprises determining whether the component extends beyond the surface of the nest.

64. (previously amended) The method of claim 62, wherein said recess corresponds to a beveled edge of the component.

65-70 (cancelled)

71. (withdrawn) A method of placing a component having leads and an alignment indicating fiducial marker, comprising:

directing a pattern of radiation across a nest having an asymmetric recess corresponding to an asymmetric shape of the component;

sensing the radiation pattern passing across the nest;

detecting the alignment of the fiducial marker on the component;

comparing the detected fiducial alignment with a predetermined fiducial alignment; and

placing the component to a substrate when the detected fiducial alignment corresponds to the predetermined fiducial alignment.

72. (withdrawn) The method of claim 71, wherein said directing further comprises disrupting the radiation pattern when a component is misaligned in the nest recess.

73. (withdrawn) The method of claim 71, wherein said comparing further comprises comparing the radiation pattern passing across the nest to a known radiation pattern.

74-82 (cancelled)

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